

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Pursuant to a Restriction Requirement, Applicants have elected examination of Group II, claims 4-15, without traverse; however, Applicants reserve all rights to file divisional applications or other related applications directed to any and all nonelected claims.

In addition, with entry of the Preliminary Amendment, claims 10, 12, 13 and 15 have been amended and claims 1-9 and 16-23 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The amendments to claims 10, 12, 13, and 15 simply incorporate into the claims the limitations of originally filed claim 4, and also introduce two specific references to SEQ ID NO:1 for the sake of clarification. Support for the reference to SEQ ID NO:1 with respect to the codons referred to in the claims can be found, *e.g.*, at page 5, lines 8-10, and in original claim 1. Support for new claim 24 can be found, *e.g.*, in original claim 5. Support for new claim 25 can be found, *e.g.*, in original claim 6. Support for new claim 26 can be found, *e.g.*, in original claim 7. Support for new claim 27 can be found, *e.g.*, in original claim 8. No new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 09/100,633

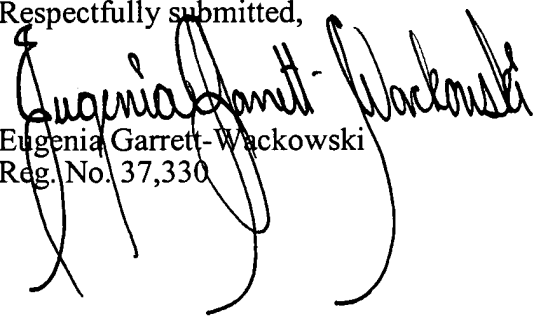
PATENT

Response and Prel. Amdt. dated December 23, 2003

Reply to Rest. Requirement of June 24, 2003

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,


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